

Amendment and Response

Applicant: Steven L. Lindblom et al.

Serial No.: 10/730,164

Filed: December 8, 2003

Docket No.: 10409US01/I201.188.101

Title: DATA STORAGE TAPE WITH PATTERNED SURFACE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 5, 17, and 21 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 13, 20, and 22 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Data storage tape having a first edge and a second edge opposite the first edge, the data storage tape comprising:
 - a substrate having a first side and a second side opposite the first side, wherein the second side of the substrate has a pattern formed therein;
 - a substantially uniform recording layer disposed on the first side of the substrate; and
 - a coating disposed on the second side of the substrate, wherein the coating conforms to the pattern in the second side of the substrate to form the pattern in a surface of the coating.

~~wherein a surface of the coating has a pattern formed therein, wherein the pattern~~
communicates with at least one of the first edge and the second edge of the data storage tape.
2. (Original) The data storage tape of claim 1, wherein the pattern communicates with the first edge and the second edge of the data storage tape.
3. (Original) The data storage tape of claim 1, wherein the data storage tape has a first surface and a second surface opposite the first surface, wherein the recording layer forms the first surface of the data storage tape and the surface of the coating constitutes the second surface of the data storage tape.
4. (Original) The data storage tape of claim 1, wherein the pattern is recessed relative to the surface of the coating.
5. (Cancelled)

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6. (Original) The data storage tape of claim 1, wherein the pattern includes a plurality of diagonal recesses extended between the first edge and the second edge of the data storage tape.

7. (Original) The data storage tape of claim 6, wherein the diagonal recesses include a first plurality of diagonal recesses and a second plurality of diagonal recesses formed along a length of the data storage tape, wherein the first plurality of diagonal recesses and the second plurality of diagonal recesses intersect.

8. (Original) The data storage tape of claim 1, wherein the pattern includes a plurality of arcuate recesses extended between the first edge and the second edge of the data storage tape.

9. (Original) The data storage tape of claim 8, wherein the arcuate recesses overlap.

10. (Original) The data storage tape of claim 8, wherein the arcuate recesses include a plurality of circular recesses formed along a length of the data storage tape.

11. (Original) The data storage tape of claim 8, wherein the arcuate recesses include a plurality of sinusoidal recesses formed along a length of the data storage tape.

12. (Original) The data storage tape of claim 1, wherein the pattern is adapted to dissipate air to the at least one of the first edge and the second edge of the data storage tape when the data storage tape is coiled.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of forming data storage tape, the method comprising:

providing a substrate having a first side and a second side opposite the first side;

forming a pattern in the second side of the substrate;

disposing a recording layer on the first side of the substrate, including forming a substantially uniform surface of the data storage tape; and

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disposing a coating on the second side of the substrate, ~~including forming a pattern in a surface of the coating and communicating the pattern with at least one of a first edge and a second edge of the data storage tape~~ including conforming the coating to the pattern in the second side of the substrate and forming the pattern in a surface of the coating,

wherein the pattern communicates with at least one of a first edge and a second edge of the data storage tape.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein forming the pattern in the surface of the coating includes communicating the pattern with the first edge and the second edge of the data storage tape.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein disposing the recording layer on the first side of the substrate includes forming a first surface of the data storage tape, and wherein disposing the coating on the second side of the substrate includes forming a second surface of the data storage tape, wherein the surface of the coating constitutes the second surface of the data storage tape.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein forming the pattern in the surface of the coating includes recessing the pattern relative to the surface of the coating.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein forming the pattern in the surface of the coating includes extending a plurality of diagonal recesses between the first edge and the second edge of the data storage tape.

19. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein forming the pattern in the surface of the coating includes extending one of a plurality of circular recesses and a plurality of sinusoidal recesses between the first edge and the second edge of the data storage tape.

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20. (Currently Amended) A method of coiling data storage tape, the method comprising: winding the data storage tape around a reel, including contacting a first side of the data storage tape with a second side of the data storage tape, the first side of the data storage tape including a substantially uniform recording layer and the second side of the data storage tape including a coating; and dissipating air entrapped between the first side and the second side of the data storage tape, including directing the entrapped air to at least one of a first edge and a second edge of the data storage tape with a pattern defined in the second side of the data storage tape and communicated with the at least one of the first edge and the second edge of the data storage tape, wherein the pattern is formed in a substrate of the data storage tape and the coating conforms to the pattern in the substrate to form the pattern in a surface of the coating.
21. (Cancelled)
22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~21~~20, wherein the pattern is recessed relative to the surface of the coating.
23. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the pattern communicates with the first edge and the second edge of the data storage tape.
24. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the pattern includes a plurality of diagonal recesses extended between the first edge and the second edge of the data storage tape.
25. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the pattern includes a plurality of arcuate recesses extended between the first edge and the second edge of the data storage tape.